THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The Drugs Technical Advisory Board is a statutary Board under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The composition and functions of the Board are given in Section 5 of the Act.

(c) to (e) The Drugs Technical Advisory Board had considered the "Boston-Surveillance Study" report on Analgin and had agreed that adverse reactions to Analgin are comparable to that of other painkillers.

The consideration for continued marketing of a drug reported to be withdrawn in some countries is based on therapeutic benefit-risk ratio.

Shifting the category of Timiolol and Paracetamol

1775. DR. GOVIND DAS RICHHARIA:

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kelkar Committee had discussed with his Ministry the shifting of Timiolol and Paracetamol from Category-I to Category-II;

(b) if so, the basis on which his Ministry agreed to the said proposals;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Timolol is used for National Health Programme and Paracetamol is not used;

(d) on what basis his Ministry endorsed the proposal of Kelkar Committee when Timolol is used for control of blindness; and

(e) what are the details of comments of his Ministry on Paracetamol for shifting the category when Kelkar Committee recommended for price decontrol in its original Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Actified Tablets and Actilex Cough Syrup

1776. DR. GOVIND DAS RICHHARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Actified Tablets, Actilex Cough Syrup are formulations;

(b) whether it is a fact that these formulations contain PsedoEphedrine and Ephedrine;

(c) whether it is a fact that ORS is also a formulation;

(d) whether Kelkar Committee had recommended for price decontrol of drugs going into the production of Actifed Tablets and Actilex Cough Syrup and price control on these formulations;

(e) whether it is also a fact that Kelkaar Committee had also recommended for tonics and vitamin preparations for price control whereas the bulk drugs going into their production are price decontrolled;

(f) whether the Kelkar Committee has consulted his Ministry before making recommendation for price decontrol of ORS and informed these facts; and

(g) if so, what was the reaction of this Ministry and if not, the reasons for making recommendation without the consultation of his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): As per the information received from the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals the reply is as under:

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Actifed contains Pseudo-Ephedrine and Actilex Cough Syrup contains Ephedrine as one of the active ingredients;

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) A final view on the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee in this regard is yet to be taken by the Government.

(f) and (g) The Ministry of Health & Family welfare had not sent any recommendation in this connection.

Shifting of drugs needed for National Health Programme

1777. SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all major drugs needed for the National Health Programmes have either been price docontrolled or shifted from First Schedule to Second Schedule;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of 60 drugs identified for National Health Programmes, around forty drugs have either not included or excluded in first schedule;

(c) whether his Ministry has assessed and analysed this situation keeping in view the policy which has the approval of the Cabinet; and

(d) if so, what steps are being proposed to rectify the situation as per Policy statement; and if not, by when the assessment would be made and action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d) Major drugs required for the following 8 National Health Programmes were recommended for price control under the Category I of the Drugs Prices Control Order, 1987.

1. National T.B. Programme.
2. National Leprosy Eradication Programme.
3. National Trachoma Control Programme and National Programme for control of Blindness;
4. Diarrhoeal Diseases Control Programme;
5. Goitre Programme.
6. E.P.I. Programme.
7. National Malaria Eradication Programme.
8. Filaria control Programme.

Out of the list of 60 drugs for 14 Health Programmes a shorter list of 26 drugs for 8 National Health Programmes was finally drawn up at the instance of Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and sent to them. This list was short as it included only 8 National Health Programmes identified from the angle of price control and also eliminated drugs not in actual use for the programmes. Rifampicin and Paracetamol have been reclassified for the following reasons:

Rifiampicins Reclassifications was recommended to promote manufacture of the drug from the basic stage by fermentation techniques.

Peracetamol: Exclusion from Category I was recommended as the drug is basically anti-pyretic|analgesic and not an antimalaria.

The remaining 3 drugs viz Oral Rehydration Salts, Sodium Sulphacetamide Drops, Timolol Meleate were excluded from Category I of the Drugs Prices Control Order by the Deptt. of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals. The Ministry of Health & FW did not send any recommendations for their exclusion to the Deptt. of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.

The Ministry of Health and FW had set up an expert committee to review the listing of Category I drugs. Their report is under examination.

Exemption of formulations based on category-II from price control

1778. SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that formulations based on Category-II are exempt from price control for small scale units irrespective of sales turnover;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Kelkar Committee had pointed out in the supplementary report the serious damage to consumer due to exemption from Category-II